

DFS QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STEPHEN D. COAN, STATE FIRE MARSHAL • VOL. 8 • ISSUE 3 • FALL 2003

Board of Fire Prevention Regulations Modifies Rules on Paper on School Walls

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, in announcing that the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations modified its regulations governing paper materials on school walls on September 18, 2003, said "I think this regulatory change strikes a good balance between the safety of students, teachers and staff, and the educational needs of schools."

Marshal Coan had asked the board to again reach out to educational groups and have further discussions with them. Several professional educational associations provided substantial guidance to the board, as did fire chiefs and fire prevention personnel. The board believes this regulation provides a substantial level of life safety, an improved educational environment and that it can be implemented in a fiscally responsible way.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "The fire service would like to see every child attend school in a sprinklered building." In 2001, 70% of the fires in schools occurred in unsprinklered buildings. Nearly 60% of school fires in 2001 were intentionally-set fires that started during the day when school was in session. "School fires occur with great regularity in Massachusetts and present a very real threat to the safety of our students and to the fabric of our communities," added Coan.

The previous regulation that had been on the books for decades, until last spring, banned all paper materials on school walls. Since it was difficult to enforce, school and fire officials had asked the board to update that regulation, which it did last spring, and again today in order to find a workable,

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2003 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award Presented at 9th Annual Massachusetts Fire and Life Safety Public Education Conference

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented the 2003 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award to Hanover Fire Captain Barbara Stone at the 9th Annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference on September 23, 2003.

"Captain Stone has great local fire education programs that involve many members of her department and the Hanover community. She has also spearheaded the creation of a countywide Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program and has been a mentor and resource to other public fire educators," said Coan. "Her

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Hanover Captain Barbara Stone with Fire Chief Stephen Tucker



From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

On the evening of October 30, we began the process of building a fallen firefighters' memorial for the Commonwealth's fire service to recognize the important role firefighters play every day in every community in the Commonwealth.

We have been given an extremely unique opportunity to literally impact the landscape of this historic structure – the Massachusetts State House.

Monuments surround the site that honor the contributions of past leaders to our Commonwealth's history. Our memorial is designed to honor the past, the current, and the future generations of firefighters who sadly gave or will give their lives to protect their fellow citizens from the ravages of fire, and creating the memorial at this historical building, gives it special significance. It is tragic that this month we have one more lost firefighter to remember.

Nightclub Safety Task Force

Throughout the spring and the summer, DFS staff were actively involved in the Task Force on Fire and Building Safety that Governor Mitt Romney asked Public Safety Secretary Edward Flynn to create in the wake of the tragic fire at The Station nightclub last February in West Warwick, Rhode Island. The

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From the Fire Marshal

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task force held seven official meetings, eight public forums across the state and numerous subcommittee deliberations which does not adequately describe the hundreds of hours of work that members of the executive office and technical staff in the fire prevention division put into this project. On September 9, the Governor officially released the report at a DFS event, and most importantly endorsed the major recommendation of the task force that sprinklers should be installed in all nightclubs with an occupancy of 50 people or more. The Governor said, "I'm aware of the financial burden that sprinkler installation will have on some of our smaller venues. But these considerations have to be weighed against the avoidance of a fire disaster such as we had in Rhode Island." He added, "We will do what we can to lessen the burden on our club owners. What we will not do is compromise the public safety." The report, *Safeguarding the Public from Fire: A Strategy for the Commonwealth*, is a blueprint for actions we can take to prevent a similar tragedy from happening in a Massachusetts club. With the large student population in Massachusetts, we have a special responsibility to protect the young people who are, in a sense, in our care.

Gov. Romney as filed a bill entitled *An Act Relative to the Enhancement of Fire and Building Safety* to implement the educational, regulatory and enforcement actions recommended by the task force.

Fire Prevention Week

Since the last issue of the *DFS Quarterly*, we have all been busy with Fire Prevention Week activities. This was the tenth year of our partnership with Papa Gino's and the first year of our partnership with True Value Hardware. Papa Gino's sponsored open houses at over 90 fire stations throughout the Commonwealth, and pro-

moted fire safety education in their stores. Participating True Value stores collaborated with local fire departments to promote fire safety education at their stores and donated free smoke alarms to the community. Fire departments were extremely busy with their school-based programs as well. I was delighted to see so much of the press coverage of Fire Prevention Week centered on firefighter-educators inside school buildings. This is the image we want the public to see in their minds when they think of fire safety education – firefighters teaming up with teachers.

We were launched into Fire Prevention Week with a successful public education conference. I was honored to present the 2003 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award to Hanover's Capt. Barbara Stone. Our keynote speaker this year was Mike Weller, a risk manager from Hagerstown Fire Department in Maryland. He spent a lot of time actively participating in the conference and his speech spoke directly from his heart to the hearts of our life safety educators. ♦

Fallen Firefighters' Memorial at State House

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Fallen Firefighters' Memorial, Inc. held an inaugural ceremony at the State House on Thursday, October 30, 2003 at 6 p.m.

In attendance were State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan, Public Safety Secretary Edward Flynn, Senate President Robert Travaglini, House Speaker Thomas Finneran, Chief Kenneth Galligan, President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Mr. Norman Knight, President of both The 100 Club and the Memorial's Board of Directors, Robert McCarthy, President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, and Michael McCullough of the Mass. Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association.

The Fallen Firefighters' Memorial will

be the first statewide memorial honoring all fallen firefighters in the Commonwealth – past, present, and future. This memorial will give the families of fallen firefighters a place for reflection. It will also give the people of Massachusetts an opportunity and a place to express their gratitude for the courage and fortitude of the firefighting profession and to memorialize the loss of some of its most valiant members.

The Fallen Firefighters' Memorial project was started with \$250,000 in seed money from the state. In addition, some of the proceeds from the *United We Stand* license plates will support this memorial.

These funds will be augmented with donations raised by the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Fund. ♦

FEMA Review of Deadly 1999 Worcester Fire Provides Insight Into Lessons Learned

A technical review of the 1999 Worcester, Mass., fire that claimed six firefighters was released on September 2, 2003 by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). According to the review, abandoned buildings are a serious threat to firefighters, and fire departments must make a concerted effort to use technology to maintain data on buildings in their response districts.

"This report offers valuable insights that will help prevent deaths and property loss in the future," said Michael D. Brown, Homeland Security Under Secretary for emergency preparedness and response. "This review for 'lessons learned' is particularly important for the fire service, which can use the information to better safeguard firefighters."

The review, compiled by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), also notes that delayed reporting contributed to the

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Lessons Learned

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warehouse fire's spread and that fire services should initiate rapid intervention teams earlier in a structure fire response and use a strict system of personnel tracking on the scene.

Other lessons learned cited in the report include:

Fire prevention efforts should target abandoned and even temporarily vacated building to avoid fires;

Proper permitting and on-going building inspections for construction changes within businesses can help reduce non-compliant interior finishes that contribute to combustion;

Large buildings such as warehouses and high rises require special search techniques and tools, including additional air tanks;

Better techniques must be developed to better track the movements of firefighters within a structure;

Alternative radio channels should be explored as radio channels can be overloaded at multiple alarm fires;

Thermal imaging cameras, while expensive, are invaluable equipment for all fire departments.

"The Worcester fire dealt a serious blow to the nation's fire service," said U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "It was one of the largest firefighter death tolls for a single event before the World Trade Center tragedy. It merited our study and resulted in findings relevant to every department in the nation."

USFA develops reports on selected major fires, usually involving multiple deaths or a large loss of property. The objective reviews are intended to uncover significant "lessons learned" or new knowledge about firefighting or to underscore ongoing issues in fire service. USFA, which has no regulatory authority, sends an experienced fire investigator to the community after a major incident only after conferring with local fire authorities.

At the time of the fire, the Worcester Fire Department had 469 uniformed personnel, 15 engine companies and 7 ladder companies operating out of 12 stations. The year before the fire, the department responded to more than 20,000 emergency calls and fought 459 structure fires. The six-story warehouse building was in the heart of the town's former warehousing and cold storage district. It had been abandoned for a decade before the fire but was frequented by homeless individuals.

The fatal fire was started when homeless individuals overturned a candle inside the warehouse. It was reported to fire officials by an off-duty police officer who saw smoke coming from the warehouse roof. Eventually going to five alarms, the fire took more than 20 hours to extinguish. It also took more than six days to recover all the bodies of the deceased firefighters.

A copy of the full report can be downloaded from: www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr134.shtm. ♦

Governor' Releases Report of Task Force on Building and Fire Safety

Governor Mitt Romney released the report of the *Task Force on Fire and Building Safety* at a September 9, 2003 event at the Department of Fire Services. The governor created the task force in the wake of the tragic fire at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island. Romney endorsed the panel's findings, including the installation of sprinklers in nightclubs with an occupancy of 50 people or more.

Romney praised the work of the 32-member panel, which was composed of fire safety experts, state and local public safety representatives and individuals touched directly by The Station nightclub fire. He noted the recommendations were crafted after seven official meetings, eight public forums across the state and numerous subcommittee deliberations.

Highlights of the report include:

Requiring all nightclubs, discotheques, dance halls and bars to have at least 72-inch main exit doors in addition to other required exit doors;

Banning the use of indoor pyrotechnics in all nightclubs, discotheques, dance halls and bars;

Putting tighter controls on the delivery, handling, and storage of pyrotechnics;



Chief Galligan, Governor Mitt Romney and Everett Pierce talk to a recruit class member.

Prohibiting foam plastics on interior finishes in all unsprinklered nightclubs, discotheques, dance halls and bars, and

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2003 Federal Assistance to Firefighter Act Grant Awards

Fire Dept. Name	Category	Federal Share
Acushnet Fire / Rescue	Fire Prevention	\$9,639
Ashfield Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$47,520
Ayer Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$71,457
Bedford Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$73,989
Berkley Fire & Rescue	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$61,722
Boxborough Fire Department	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$43,429
Carver Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$128,281
Charlemont Fire Dept	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$43,911
Concord Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$63,424
Danvers Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$64,800
Dedham Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$193,594
Dighton Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$8,096
Dover Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$19,422
Duxbury Fire Department	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$30,995
East Longmeadow Fire Dept.	Emergency Medical Services	\$6,930
Erving Fire Department	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$48,600
Foxborough Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$58,761
Gardner Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$80,100
Great Barrington Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$16,290
Hamilton Fire Dept.	Fire Operations And Firefighter Safety	\$91,184
Hardwick Fire Dept.	Firefighting Vehicle	\$225,000
Harwich Fire Department	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$49,954
Heath Fire Department	Firefighting Vehicle	\$225,000
Hinsdale Vol. Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$83,736
Holbrook Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$40,302
Holland Fire Department	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$31,104
Leicester Fire Dept	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$23,184
Longmeadow Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$82,259
Marion Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$22,148
Merrimac Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$54,000
Middlefield Vol. Fire Dept.	Firefighting Vehicle	\$125,100
Milford Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$47,430
Nahant Fire Dept	Firefighting Vehicle	\$211,500
Natick Fire Department	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$203,454
North Andover Fire Department	Emergency Medical Services	\$209,749
North Attleborough Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$142,305
Oakham Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$26,983
Palmer Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$37,800
Plainfield Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$20,256
Rochester Fire Department	Firefighting Vehicle	\$112,500
Rockland Fire-Rescue Dept.	Firefighting Vehicle	\$211,500
Sherborn Fire Department	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$52,200
South Deerfield Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$14,850
Somerville Fire Dept.	Fire Prevention	\$5,215
Sturbridge Fire Department	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$68,702
Sudbury Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$31,122
Tyngsborough Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$67,408
Upton Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$160,560
Wareham Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$184,983
Westminster Fire Department	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$44,822
Whately Fire Dept.	Firefighting Vehicle	\$98,100
Yarmouth Fire Department	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$76,698
Total		\$4,152,068

NightClub Safety

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Governor Mitt Romney and State Fire Marshal Steve Coan.

the general public who patronize these establishments;

Creating criminal penalties for businesses who violate the laws and regulations governing fire and building safety and create a dangerous condition in a public assembly building;

Establishing uniform code enforcement procedures for state and municipal enforcement personnel to issue uniform "code citation tickets"; and

Easing the financial burden on businesses complying with the new laws and regulations by putting in place tax credits, an accelerated depreciation schedule for sprinkler installation and/or a program to provide no- or low-interest loans to qualified business owners.

For a copy of the complete report, log onto the Department of Fire Services website at www.state.ma.us/dfs/; look for the icon *Safeguarding the Public from Fire: A Strategy for the Commonwealth*. ♦

Firefighter of the Year Awards Ceremony

The 2003 Firefighter of the Year Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2003 at historic Fanueil Hall at 11 a.m. Governor Mitt Romney and Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey will preside over the annual heroic awards recognition ceremony.

News From CPSC

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is www.cpsc.gov.

June 5, 2003 - Release # 03-139

Trivett Industries, Inc. Recalls Pancake Makers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03139.html

November 6, 2003 - Release # 04-027

The Metal Ware Corp. Recalls Deep Fryer Covers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04027.html



July 17, 2003 - Release # 03-160

Hamilton Beach and Proctor-Silex Recalls Slow Cookers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03160.html

September 25, 2003 - 2003 - Release # 03-192

Blason International Trading Corp. Recalls Hair Dryers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03192.html



October 24, 2003 - Release # 04-015

Wahl Clipper Corp. Recalls Curling Irons

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04015.html

June 5, 2003 - Release # 03-140

Weather Works Recalls Electric Heaters

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03140.html

June 5, 2003 - Release # 03-141

Trisonic Recalls Nightlights

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03141.html

September 25, 2003 - 2003 - Release # 03-195

Galls Inc. Recalls Flashlight Batteries

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03195.html

June 19, 2003 - Release # 03-145

Homier Distributing Co. Recalls Extension Cords, Portable Lights, and Fluorescent Work Lights

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03145.html

July 2, 2003 - Release # 03-152

Perfect Fit Industries Recalls Electric Blankets

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03152.html

July 2, 2003 - Release # 03-154

Franzus Company LLC Recalls International Adapter Plugs

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03154.html

October 29, 2003 - Release # 04-019

The Sarut Group d/b/a City Limit Recalls Fish-Shaped Cigarette Lighters

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04019.html

October 29, 2003 - Release # 04-020

Style Asia Inc. Recalls Cigarette Lighters

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04020.htm



July 17, 2003 - Release #03-162

De Bon Sales Recalls Cigarette Lighters

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03162.html

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CPSC News

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July 17, 2003 - Release #03-163

UWATEC Recalls Smart Dive Computers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03163.html

August 28, 2003 - Release #03-176

IBM and LiteOn Technology Announces Expansion of Previously Recall of Computer Monitors

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03176.html

September 25, 2003 - 2003 - Release # 03-197

Sony Corp. Recalls Notebook Computers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03197.html

September 10, 2003 - Release # 03-181

OnQ Technologies Recalls Telephone Line-Sharing Devices

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03181.html



July 24, 2003 - Release # 03-164

Black & Decker Announces Recall to Repair 18-volt Cordless Drill/Drivers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03164.html

October 29, 2003 - Release # 04-021

Russound Inc. Announces

Recall to Repair Audio Video Controller/Amplifiers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04021.html

July 31, 2003 - Release # 03-167

Ideal Industries Inc. Recalls Voltage Testers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03167.html

October 2, 2003 - Release #04-002

Technuity Inc. Recalls Back-Up Power Supply Systems

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04002.html

October 15, 2003 - Release # 04-009

Honda Power Equipment Manufacturing Inc. Recalls Lawnmowers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04009.html

August 21, 2003 - Release # 03-174

Hayward Pool Products Inc. Announces Recall Pool Heaters

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03174.htm

September 25, 2003 - 2003 - Release # 03-193

Vaxcel International Co. Ltd. Recalls Ceiling Fans

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03193.htm

July 2, 2003 - Release # 03-156

Firms Recalls GSW Water Heaters With S.I.T. Temperature Controls

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03156.html

July 17, 2003 - Release #03-159

Midwest Recalls Toad Lawn Sprinklers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03159.html

August 21, 2003 - Release # 03-173

CFM Keanall Announces Recall of Gas Grills

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03173.html



September 10, 2003 - Release #03-180

Weber-Stephen Products Recalls Gas Grills

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03180.html

September 25, 2003 - 2003 - Release # 03-191

Grand Hall Enterprise Co. Ltd. Recalls Gas Grills

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03191.html

September 25, 2003 - 2003 - Release # 03-196

Marshall Gas Controls, a division of S.H. Leggett Company Recalls LP-Gas Regulators on Gas Grills

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03196.html

September 25, 2003 - 2003 - Release # 03-194

The Wenzel Co. Recalls Propane Lanterns

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03194.html

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MFIRS CORNER

Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System

Coding Tips

Building Fires

If you have a fire in any building the correct code for Incident Type = 111 - Building Fire

If the fire (in the building) is confined to a noncombustible container then you should code the Incident Type as:

- 113 Cooking fire
- 114 Chimney of flue fire
- 115 Incinerator overload or malfunction
- 116 Fuel burner/boiler malfunction
- 117 Commercial compactor fire
- 118 Trash or rubbish fire.

Then all you have to complete is the Basic Form (pp. 1 & 2)

If the flame goes beyond the noncombustible container, it becomes an Incident Type = 111 and you must complete the Basic, Fire and Structure Fire forms.

Never use Incident Type = 100 (Fire, other) or 112 (Fire in structure other than in a building) for a fire in any type of building. If a fire occurs inside a building (even if it is confined to a noncombustible container that is not listed in Incident Types 113 – 118), then it is a building fire, Incident Type = 111

If you have any question for any type of coding in MFIRS feel free to contact me at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us.

Chimney Fires

With winter upon us please refresh yourselves on the types of incidents that are common during this time of year.

Chimney fires that do not go beyond the chimney or flue should be coded as an Incident Type = 114 (Chimney or flue fire, contained). If the fire goes beyond the chimney, then the Area of Origin (on the Fire Module) would be coded wherever the fire came out of the chimney such as the living room, bedroom, dining room, attic, wall assembly.

Exposure Fires

From the Complete Reference Guide (Handbook) of version 5, an Exposure Fire is defined as a fire resulting from another fire outside that building, structure, or vehicle, or a fire that extends to an outside property from a building, structure, or vehicle. An exposure can only be flame damage. Any damage to another building, structure or vehicle other than flame damage is not to be considered an exposure. If you have other damage (e.g. heat, smoke or water) then it should be mentioned in the Remarks section of your report.

Arson and Juvenile Firesetting Modules

If the Fire Cause is coded as Intentional and/or it is believed to be a juvenile set fire (Fire Module) then an Arson/Juvenile Firesetter Module must be completed and submitted.

MFIRS Training

If you feel your department needs more training on MFIRS v5 and can guarantee 15 students, please contact me to set up an MFIRS v5 class. It is a

4 hour MFA class and now comes with 4 OEMS credits. Enrollment must include other local departments.

Future MFA MFIRS classes:

Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at MFA, Stow from 0900-1300 hours.

Thursday, April 8, 2004 at Belcher-town Fire Dept. from 1800-2200 hours.

A 3rd class is being scheduled for Northampton Fire Dept. from 0900-1300 hours. No date has been set.

2003 MFIRS Reports Due Feb. 6, 2004

All 2003 incident reports should be sent to the Fire Data and Public Education Unit no later than Friday, February 6, 2004. Year end Error and Feedback Reports will be mailed to each chief by the end of February 2004.

In 2004 the Fire Data & Public Education Unit will begin sending quarterly Error & Feedback Reports to each fire department and district. It is our belief that by going to a quarterly system of notification, the number of errors and incorrect trends will decline, the quality of your data will increase, and the entire process will become more manageable for all of us.

Massachusetts Fire Deaths Dropped 25% in 2001

Smoking Remains Leading Cause of Fire Deaths

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, in announcing the release of the *Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System - 2001 Annual Report* said, "Smoking remains the leading cause of fire deaths, even as the number of fire

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Changes in Fire and Explosion Investigation Section

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, Detective Lt. Frank Moore has been in command of the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section in the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Det. Lt. Moore came to DFS from the Worcester Detective Unit & Narcotics, where in his early days, he was one of the fire investigators who worked with the Office of the State Fire Marshal. For several months, we were fortunate to have Sgt. Robert O'Keefe, a long-time fire investigator, return to the office as the Executive Officer. Unfortunately he has moved on and Sgt. Kevin McMahon, another experienced fire investigator, moved into the "Ex-O" position. Tpr. Paul Zipper has been promoted to Sergeant and has moved from the North Team to join the administrative staff.

Replacing Sgt. McMahon as the South Team Leader is newly promoted Sgt. Frank McGinn. Sgt. McGinn has been a fire investigator assigned to the South Team for the past four years. Sgt. John Guilino, former team leader for the West Team, has moved on to other duties within the State Police, and Tpr. Frank Hart is currently serving as the West Team leader. Marty Foley of the Hazardous Devices Unit has been promoted to Lieutenant.

Command Staff	Tel. Extension
Det. Lt. Frank Moore, Commander	3312
Sgt. Kevin McMahon, Executive Office	3330
Sgt. Paul Zipper, Administrative Staff,	3327
Tpr. Nancy Krue, Evidence & Training Officer	3317
Joanne Nason, Administrative Assistant	3313

Fire Investigation Unit

Central Team – Sgt. David Lambert	3315
North Team – Sgt.. Robert Bachelder	3321
South Team – Sgt. Frank McGinn	3325
West Team – Tpr. Frank hart	3341

Hazardous Devices Unit

Lt. Marty Foley	3314
Sgt. Chuck Hanco	3365

Persistence Pays Off for Perwak

An investigation that started off looking like "just a bunch of juveniles" resulted in the arrest of a serial bomber in two states who also committed hate crimes.

In May 2002 the Bernardston, Mass. fire chief experienced a number of "mailbox bombings" in his rural Franklin County community. A month later, the fire chief in nearby Orange, Mass. Experienced a similar rash of mailbox bombings. While many fire investigators would have shrugged them all off as a series of juvenile pranks, State Police Trooper Gerry Perwak assigned to the West Team in the State Fire Marshal's Fire Investigation Unit, noticed the fact that the small engine show had been in both towns during the time of the mailbox bombings, and that they had stopped when the show left town.

Armed with his only clue, he prepared for the show's visit the following year, by conducting as many interviews as possible of local people involved in the shows.

When the show came back in May and June 2003, Athol, Bernardston, and Orange fire and police officials,

State Police fire investigators, agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, U.S. Postal Inspectors, and staff from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office were ready when the first mailbox bomb occurred. A New Jersey man, Robert J. Kubisch, 49, was arrested in June and charged with 44 counts of malicious explosion and willful placing of explosives.

After his arrest, the New Jersey State Police began looking into similar bombings near his Martinsville, New Jersey home. A Somerset County, NJ grand jury indicted him with 29 counts including unlawful possession of destructive devices, arson, bias intimidation and bias harassment. He has been charged with setting off mailbox bombs in New Jersey and writing anti-Semitic graffiti that threatened public officials. When local officials searched the home Kubisch shared with his parents, they seized more than 100 homemade bombs, bomb making chemicals and found anti-Semitic literature.

Kubisch has been released on bail from Massachusetts and is being held in a New Jersey jail with bail set at \$75,000 bond. ♦

Training in the Reid Interviewing Technique

The Mass. Firefighting Academy will be hosting a training opportunity in the Reid Technique of Interviewing and Interrogation, with special emphasis on arson investigation, January 13-15, 2004. The fee for the course is \$395. To register contact Sgt. Paul Zipper at (978) 567-3310. ♦

Spoliation Tips for the Fire Investigator

By Deputy State Fire Marshal Charles Chase, IAAI-CFI

Reprinted from the *Gated Wye*, newsletter from the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal

NFPA 921 defines spoliation as: Loss, destruction, or material alteration of an object or document that is evidence or potential evidence in a legal proceeding by one who has the responsibility for its preservation. So what does this mean to you, the fire investigator and what can you do to avoid it?

The practice of taking an item or appliance suspected in a fire cause back to the station to be taken apart for examination is not acceptable anymore. Why? Let's use a scenario.

You investigate a fire that appears to have started in the kitchen. All burn patterns lead you to a suspected appliance; Lets say it is a toaster oven. The insurance provider will want to *subrogate* all or part of the loss to another party (perhaps the manufacturer) or at least have that option. Subrogation is the substitution of one party for another especially the legal doctrine of substituting one creditor for another. If the toaster oven has been altered or destroyed due to testing, the manufacturer of the product will be unable to defend their product in a court of law. It is the responsibility of the fire investigator to see that evidence is safeguarded in such a way that another interested party could examine the object the essence of spoliation.

There are many ways to determine the fire cause while still maintaining the integrity of a product. For the most part, the public sector fire investigator is protected from penalties in spoliation cases as long as they are carrying out their official duties. However, willful destruction of evidence may expose them to sanctions both criminal and civil.

The examination may require you to move or carefully alter the evidence to

make your initial evaluation. The trick is to document the scene as thoroughly as possible. Use photographs and diagrams to thoroughly document the fire scene. Should arson be suspected, the evidence must be properly packaged and tagged and maintained with a proper chain of custody. Evidence must not be discarded or destroyed without the authority of the court or agencies involved.

In non arson cases the public sector investigator has no authority to remove private property unless it is necessary to show that certain accidental ignition sources were considered and /or eliminated. All parties must have equal opportunity to analyze and examine the suspected item, including the occupant's insurance carrier, the manufacturer, and the installer to name a few.

Let's assume that the toaster oven appears to have a faulty high temperature shut off switch and probably caused the fire. Who owns the item? It is the property of the homeowner *until* the insurance company settles the claim, after which it becomes the property of the company. It is the responsibility of the carrier to inform other parties that subrogation may occur.

If you, the investigator, choose to remove the item you must secure it, allow access to other interested parties, and protect it from damage.

Here are some simple guidelines;

1. Find out if there is insurance on the property you are investigating.
2. Let the insurance agent know that you are investigating the fire and give them an opportunity to have a private origin and cause investigator examine the scene. You don't have to release the scene or share it with a private sector investigator, but there may be advantages to doing so.
3. Inform the insurance company that the fire

appears to involve a particular product and they will need to secure the item.

Private industry is just as responsible to permit access and protect against spoliation. 4. Document the scene using photos and diagrams. Should you need to institute nondestructive actions like removing a cover plate to gain access to brand name, model numbers, etc. that is fine. The key is NON-destructive.

I find that many times the private sector investigator can be a valuable resource to me in the investigation of cases that do not appear to be criminal in nature. Private sector investigators have access to testing labs that we may not. The private sector investigator does not have governmental immunity. They have an obligation to notify any known defendants of loss and the intent to remove evidence. If the identity of the defendants are unknown, photographic documentation with log, and diagramming is the best alternative. If evidence is retained for testing known parties like the manufacturer or installer must be notified in writing before any testing is carried out. These possible defendants may arrange for their own experts to be on hand.

All fire, heat and smoke patterns lead you to conclude that the toaster oven was the origin of the fire. You document the scene to support your conclusion. You discover nothing that indicates the fire was caused purposefully. The most probable cause of the fire was a failure in the toaster oven, and you have avoided spoliation. Job well done! I urge you to read **NFPA 921** and **Kirk's Fire Investigation** to learn more about this very important subject, and don't take that toaster oven to the fire station and disassemble it! ♦



2001 MFIRS Annual Report

Continued from page 8

deaths dropped 25% in Massachusetts from 2000 to 2001. What is alarming is the likelihood that a fire will turn fatal if there are no working smoke detectors in a home."

Fires Increased 12%, Fire Deaths Dropped 25%

The total number of fires increased to 27,885 in 2001, a 12% increase from the previous year. For the second straight year not a single firefighter lost his or her life while fighting a fire. Unfortunately, 59 civilians died in 55 Massachusetts fires during 2001; however this is a 25% decrease from the previous year.

Most Fire Victims Not Alerted by Smoke Detectors

A disturbing statistic is that two-thirds of residential fire victims were not alerted by smoke detectors. Half of these cases were due to disabled smoke alarms, the other half did not have any smoke alarms at all; these people mistakenly thought fire wouldn't happen to them. Coan said, "On October 26, when we change our

clocks, take a moment to change the batteries in your smoke alarms too!"

Smoking Leading Cause of Fatal Fires; Cooking Leading Cause of Home Fires

Smoking has been the leading cause of fatal fires as far back as the 1940's. Smoking was still the leading cause of fire deaths in 2001, accounting for 33% of the total fire deaths. It was responsible for 36% of the fatal fires in 2001. The leading cause of fires in the home in 2001 was cooking, which caused 39% of all residential fires.

State Fire Marshal Coan added, "It is my hope that this report will be used to map out and measure fire prevention strategies in the coming year. We must sustain our efforts to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth through fire prevention and public education."

To obtain a copy of the report contact Derryl Dion at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us or download a copy from our website at www.mass.gov/dfs/firedata/2001annualreport.pdf. ♦

Aboveground Storage Tanks

In 1996, a program known as the aboveground storage tank program was transferred from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the Department of Fire Services (DFS). This program originally began after the great molasses spill in Boston in 1919.

The general law which states in part "no person shall construct, maintain or use any tank in excess of 10,000 gallons for the storage of any fluid other than water without first securing a permit from the marshal.....further the marshal shall cause such tanks to be inspected annually."

In December 1999, the State Fire Marshal promulgated a new regulation 502 CMR 5 governing the application process for new tanks, tanks under repair and the annual inspection process. In January 2001 the State Fire Marshal sent an advisory out reminding heads of fire departments of the need to have annual use permits from the DFS and permits for repair or construction. ♦

CPSC News

August 21, 2003 - Release # 03-175

Academy Sports and Outdoors Recalls Propane Heaters

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03175.html

September 25, 2003 - 2003 - Release # 03-199

Lang Candles Ltd. Recalls Melting Pot Gift Sets

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03199.html

October 23, 2003 - Release # 04-014

Pier 1 Imports Recalls Footed Glass Floater Bowl Candleholder

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04014.html

October 29, 2003 - Release # 04-017

Shindaiwa Inc. Recalls Hedge Trimmers

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04017.html

October 30, 2003 - Release # 04-023

Continued from page 6

Michaels Stores, Inc. Recalls Halloween Candleholders

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04023.html



October 30, 2003 - Release # 04-024

Walgreen Co. Recalls Pumpkin Tealight Candleholders

www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04024.html

New Fees for Red & Blue Light Permits

Beginning July 1, 2003, the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is required to collect a fee of \$50 on an annual basis for each Red Light Permit or Blue Light Permit that is issued or renewed for a privately-owned vehicle. Such permits are issued under the authority of M.G.L. Chapter 90, Section 7E to vehicles owned and/or operated by individuals performing certain functions (law enforcement, law enforcement-related or emergency services) identified in that statute. The full fee will be due for any portion of a year for which the permit will be valid.

The fee has been established by regulation by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The fee was adopted under the authority of 801 CMR 4.02 (801 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 4.02) on May 1, 2003.

Current Red or Blue Light Permits are printed on a form that resembles a registration card. The permit expires on the date indicated. The RMV will not notify you in advance if your Red or Blue Light Permit is about to expire. Generally, the permit will expire on a date when the vehicle's registration is set to expire, but some permits issued prior to 2003 may have a period of validity that extends beyond the current vehicle registration. Check the expiration date of your permit and the expiration date of your registration and enter the information as a reminder in a place where you expect to see it prior to the permit's expiration.

The RMV will collect the \$50 annual fee beginning on July 1, 2003 for the initial issuance of a permit and a \$50 annual fee for the renewal of an existing permit. The expiration date of each permit issued or renewed from

that date will match the expiration date of the registration of the vehicle. The amount collected will be based upon the period of validity of the registration.

No fee will be charged to amend an existing permit, (such as to switch the permit to a newly acquired vehicle), unless the expiration date of the vehicle's registration is beyond the current expiration date of the permit. An amended permit will expire when the vehicle's registration expires.

(i) an initial permit for a two-year registration (all passenger plates) and each renewal, will pay a permit fee of \$100 (2 years X \$50 per year), except that only \$50 will be due if the permit is initially obtained in the final year of the registration.

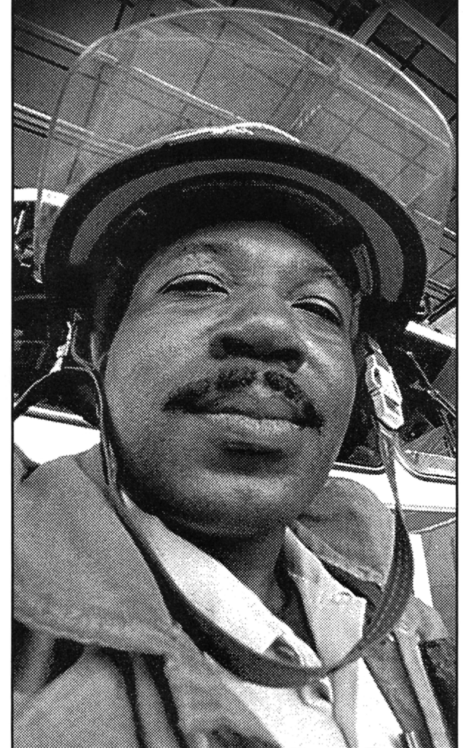
(ii) an initial one-year registration (commercial plates, vanity, etc.) and each renewal will pay a permit fee of \$50 and the permit will be valid for the duration of the registration period.

Each renewal will require a newly completed application form with the original signature of the head of the police department (if a Blue Light Permit) or the head of the fire department (if a Red Light Permit).

No fee will be assessed for a Red Light Permit issued or renewed for a call or volunteer firefighter's primary vehicle. However, each additional Red Light Permit issued or renewed for a call or volunteer firefighter will be assessed the \$50 annual fee.

If you have any questions about this new fee or the application process, please call the RMV Red/Blue Light Permits Section at 617-351-9913. Permits are issued or renewed only at the Copley Place headquarters in Boston. ♦

"My dad
is a hero.
He does
great things.
And the best
thing he can do
is come home."



Protect the heroes who protect our lives. Have a smoke alarm on every floor. Test it monthly. Replace the battery yearly. Do your part to get out before they have to come in.



Working for a Fire-Safe America

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

9th Annual Public Education Conference

Continued from Page 1

participation in the State Wide Coalition of Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programs and the Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Task Force exemplifies the leadership qualities this award is intended to honor,” he added.

Two Day Conference for Fire and Life Safety Educators

The Department of Fire Services hosted the two-day conference at the Mansfield Holiday Inn that was attended by about 200 firefighters, classroom teachers, nurses, elder service workers, and injury prevention professionals from around the state. Participants attended two days of workshops on topics such as brain-based learning, working with children suffering from attention deficit disorder, school crisis management planning, senior fall and fire safety, innovative programs on teaching injury prevention, helmet use, effective use of static displays, reaching adults, reaching bi-lingual communities, ice and water safety, bus safety, and grant writing.

Seasons of Change: Life Safety Through the Generations

The theme of the 9th annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference was *Seasons of Change: Life Safety Through the Generations*, focusing on the need to provide fire and life safety messages to all sectors of our community from the very young to the very old. In order to be effective, those messages need to be delivered in different ways for different audiences.

Keynote Address By Mike Weller, Hagerstown, Maryland Public Educator

The dynamic keynote address was delivered on September 24 by Hagerstown, Maryland Fire

Department’s Public Educator, Mike Weller. He is well known as an instructor at the National Fire Academy and for creating Maryland’s Safety Village. The Safety Village teaches Maryland’s school children about a variety of fire and life safety issues in a hands-on, kid-sized environment. The centralized injury prevention campus is a national model for teaching life safety and for effective partnerships.

Helen Beals Presented with Special Fire Marshal’s Award

Ms. Helen Beals, who retired in September from the Public Education Unit of NFPA International headquartered in Quincy, Mass., was presented with a special Fire Marshal’s Award. The Mass. Public Fire and Life Safety Education Task Force asked State Fire Marshal Coan to honor this remarkable woman who has spent a career shunning the spotlight, while quietly working to help fire educators – especially those in her home state of Massachusetts. State Fire Marshal Coan highlighted her work with the Greater Boston Fire Prevention Coalition that developed a 45-minute fire safety program for students that involved moving groups of students through different “stations.” The stops on the tour involved learning to perform Stop, Drop and Roll, practicing crawling low under smoke, a match and lighter safety lesson, an introduction to how firefighters look when dressed in full gear and “scary masks”, smoke alarms, and home escape planning. The program included a photo of each child with Sparky and a sing-along of fire safety songs.

2003 FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Citation Winners for 2003 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Recognized

The outstanding nominees for the

2003 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year were recognized by State Fire Marshal Coan and presented with citations. Citation recipients were:

- Agawam Fire Prevention Officer Michael Mercadante
- Holliston Fire Chief Michael Cassidy
- Lowell Fire Prevention Officer Rene Demers
- Mattapoisett Firefighter James Harlfinger
- Merrimac Firefighter Michael McLeieer
- Rehoboth Lt. Mike Salois
- South Hadley Lt. William Judd
- Sudbury FF Kevin Moreau
- Upton Firefighter Bonnie Lopez
- Waltham Firefighter Charles Frost
- Winchester Capt. Rick Tustin

The Award

The award honors people who have exhibited excellence in teaching their community about fire and life safety, and have demonstrated leadership in the field. Anyone can be nominated and anyone can make a nomination. The nominee could work with children, older adults, special groups of citizens or the general public and they could be in any line of work – firefighter, teacher, community service worker, elder service provider, or nurse.

Selection Committee

The difficult task of selecting one nomination as more outstanding than the others fell to a Selection Committee, chosen by the State Fire Marshal, that included: Christine Farrell, Mass. Department of Public Health; Patricia Lybarger, R.N. Shriners Hospital for Children; Ronald Meehan, Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting

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EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Continued from page 14

Association; Mendon Fire Chief Charlie Johnson representing the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts; Acton Inspector Bill Klauer, President of the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts; and last year's winner, Berkley Fire Capt. Bob Milne. ♦



Citation winners with their fire officers. Helen Beals is fifth from the left. Capt. Barbara Stone and Fire Marshal Coan are at center.

10th Year of Partnership with Papa Gino's

2003 marks the tenth year that Papa Gino's Inc. has partnered with New England fire departments to promote fire safety during the month of October. Once again this year, the company will be assisting local fire departments in communities where they have restaurants to sponsor open houses at local fire stations. The open houses have been extremely successful in bringing members of the community into the local station to learn about general fire and life safety and to learn about the many different services the fire department provides. ♦

Fire Prevention Week October 5-11, 2003

This year's theme for Fire Prevention week was "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!" The National Fire Protection Association, the national sponsors of Fire Prevention Week, wished to focus on two critical life saving lessons - smoke alarms and practicing home fire drills. ♦



Fire Prevention Partnership with True Value Hardware

This was the first year of a partnership with True Value Hardware Stores, who promoted fire safety throughout the month of October. Participating stores exchanged completed home escape plans for safety lights children could use when trick-or-treating on Halloween. In addition, they donated 120 free smoke alarms to fire departments who

joined them for a few hours on Saturday, October 18 for an "Ask a Firefighter" session. This allowed the public to ask firefighters questions they might have on smoke alarms and home escape planning and other home fire prevention issues. About forty stores in Massachusetts participated in this first year of this partnerships. ♦

Brian T. Broderick Family Fire Safety Day - Sept. 13, 2003

September 13, 2003 was a great day at Houghton's Pond in the Blue Hills Reservation. An estimated 2,000 visitors took advantage of the nice fall day to learn a little bit about fire safety and the fire service. ♦



Sparky and friends



Ranger Maggi Brown looks at antique firetruck



Sparky and Smokey Bear with LifeFlight Crew.

Recruit Class #159 & 160 Graduate

On July 18, 2003, of the 159th Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-five day Recruit Firefighting Program graduated in a ceremony at the Department of Fire Services. This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.

The thirty-seven graduates; three women and thirty-four men, represent the fire departments of: Auburn, Bellingham, Beverly, Chelmsford, Duxbury, Fairhaven, Falmouth, Framingham, Hingham, Hudson, Lawrence, Manchester, Marshfield, Quincy, Scituate, Sharon, Stoneham, Swampscott, Upton, Waltham, Weston, and Yarmouth.

Leominster Fire Chief Alfred LeBlanc,

who is also an active Mass. Firefighting Academy instructor, addressed the graduating recruits.

On October 3, 2003, the 160th Recruit Class graduated. The thirty-nine graduates; two women and thirty-seven men, represent the fire departments of: Agawam, Ashland, Auburn, Billerica, Bridgewater, Concord, Duxbury, Kingston, Lawrence, Marshfield, Mashpee, Millville, Natick, Northbridge, Plainville, Raynham, Reading, Sharon, Watertown, and Yarmouth.

Westwood Fire Chief William Scoble, who is also an active Mass. Firefighting Academy instructor and serves as an electrical inspector for the Fire Investigation Unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal, addressed the graduating recruits.



*Class #159
Photo by Sue Peltier*



*Class #160
Photo by Sue Peltier*

ISU Back in Service

Effective October 30, the Incident Support Unit, one of the vehicles within the Special Operations Branch of the Department of Fire Services, has been returned to full service. The unit has been through extensive overhaul and has been upgraded with many new features to provide additional assistance to the Commonwealth's fire service. Some of the enhanced features include:

- complete upgrade of the radio systems including the addition of the ACU-1000 Interoperability switch for the radio patching,
- inclusion of digital radios,
- addition of a satellite dish to allow for Internet connection for a fast downlink of information such as weather, phone listings, and other information that is available on the web,
- upgrade of the conference area with some computer technology, a large plasma screen complete with a "Smart Board", and a reconfigured table with maps under a glass top.

All resources within the Special Operations Branch of DFS, including the Incident Support Unit, Incident Support Trailer, and the REHAB bus are available for immediate response 24 hours a day by calling the Communications section at MEMA at 508-820-2000. Included with the response will be a team made up of a liaison chief, an operations chief, and vehicle operations staff.

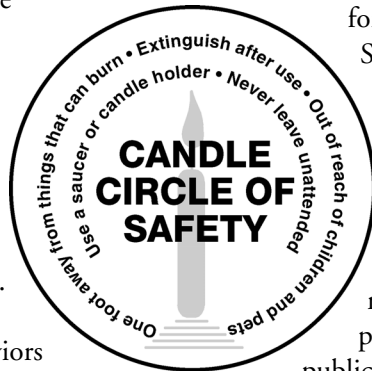
If you have any general questions or would like to use any of the vehicles at a pre-planned event please call 978-567-3111 or the Special Operations Office at 978-567-3171. ♦

New Safety Standards for Candles

Candles are a part of our lives in our homes, businesses, shopping plaza's, and places of worship. Candles are everywhere, everyday. In fact, candles are a leading cause of home fires across the country. Information collected from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) state that there are three major causes of home candle fires:

- Unattended burning candles account for approximately 60% of all candle fires.
- Combustibles such as wood, plastics, furniture, curtains, and bedding too close to a burning candle.
- Children and pets knocking candles over or playing recklessly with or around lit candles.

In an effort to reduce the number of candle fires, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) put together a state-wide education campaign. The creation of the *Candle Circle of Safety* was born. This logo identifies the five key fire safety behaviors for candles. Partnering with four major candle retailers in Massachusetts, the OSFM held candle safety events



throughout the Commonwealth to promote the *Candle Circle of Safety*.

From schools to shopping malls the word was getting out. But this was not enough.

The OSFM formed a joint study with the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) to identify root causes of candle fires and to help promote candle safety nationally. Additionally, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) was asked to lobby for national candle standards. As this large public education project grew, a beneficial partner was born.

The American Society for the Testing of Materials (ASTM) is a not-for-profit organization that develops standards for materials, products, and systems used by American manufacturers and purchasers. In 1997, the ASTM formed the Candle Products Subcommittee in an effort to address candle fire safety. Throughout the process of developing candle fire safety standards, the ASTM has been in contact with members of the OSFM to protect the interest of public fire educators and the fire service. To date, the ASTM has passed three standards relating to candle fire

safety:

- F20568-00 – This standard creates a cautionary label that gives three safety messages placed on every candle sold.
- F2179-02 – A standard for the production of thermal resistant glass for the use of filled candles.
- PS-59 – This standard is a provisional standard that limits flame heights, secondary ignition, candle stability, and end of useful life, which limits radiant heat allowed as a burning candle reaches near bottom.

This last standard, PS-59, is a provisional standard. That means that the candle industry has a safety standard to use as the ASTM continues to look at other candle fire safety issues to be added at a later date. Some topics currently under review are flammable candle accessories such as floral rings, maximum container temperatures, exploding candles (gel) and wick centering.

In conclusion, recent fire data shows that candle fires are declining in Massachusetts. The efforts of all those involved, from the fire department public educators, to the executives of candle manufacturers seem to be working. ♦

Free Smoke Alarms from Mass. Department of Public Health

In the recently released 2001 MFIRS Annual Report, the State Fire Marshal notes that 2/3 (66%) of residential fire victims were not alerted by smoke detectors. In 1/2 of these cases, the victims were not alerted because no smoke detectors were present and in the other 1/2, the detectors were present but not operating. The Fire Marshal states that fire departments need to be proactive in educating the public on the need to have and maintain working smoke detectors.

Apply now for the **Free Smoke Alarm Program** and receive smoke alarms to install in the homes of at-risk populations: immigrants and refugees, elders, and families with young children. The smoke alarms have a 10-year lithium battery. Local fire departments partner with community agencies that assist them in identifying residents who qualify for the program.

The Free Smoke Alarm Program is a joint partnership of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the



Office of the State Fire Marshal and is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Contact: Christine M. Farrell at (617) 624-5476 or at christine.farrell@state.ma.us.

Status Report of Compliance/Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation is made regarding the effective date of

the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding the status of any license or certificate

please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services can be reached at either (978) 567-3300 or in western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ♦

Compliance/Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

Blasting Certificate of Competency

Ray Lizott	Revoked	
Kevin MacDonald	Suspended Five Years	Effective 10/4/00
Patrick O'Conner	Suspended Served	Pending Re-examination
Charlie Despotopoulos	Suspended	Pending Re-examination
Frank Kenefick	Suspended Three Years	Effective 6/14/01
Harlan Bean	Suspended Two Years	Effective 12/20/01
Paul Selmer	Suspended	Pending Re-examination
Timothy Kenneally	Suspended	Pending Re-Examination
Tony Trotto	Suspended Three Years	Effective 5/7/03
Tim Kelly	Suspended Two Years	Effective 2/20/03
Justin Roulston	Suspended Served	Pending Re-examination

Explosives User's Certificate

Exquisite Craft Development	Suspended Five Years	Effective 4/9/01
Granite Rock Drilling & Blasting	Revoked	
Cynjo Corp.	Suspended Three Years	Effective 10/30/01
CD Explosives	Suspended Three Years	Effective 11/19/01
KD Explosives	Suspended 18 Months	Effective 3/26/03
The Roulston Companies	Suspended Two Years	Effective 5/29/03
Hudson Explosives	Suspended Two Years	Effective 2/20/03

Fireworks Certificate of Competency

Joseph Capone	Voluntary Permanent Suspension
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Editors Note: The information on the last issue of the DFS Quarterly regarding Joseph Capone's Fireworks Certificate of Competency and Zambelli International's Fireworks User's Certificate were in error. We apologize for any inconvenience. The correct information is listed above.

State Permits Explosive Storage as a Homeland Security Measure

One of the Commonwealth security laws passed in the year after the terrorist attacks on September 11, charged the Office of the State Fire Marshal with permitting the storage of explosives. The goal is to make sure we have a good handle on where the explosives are in this state and that they are kept and managed in accordance with regulations.

The law, passed in late 2002, directed the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations to craft regulations on this new state permitting process, which they promptly did. All storage of black and smokeless powder and high explosives such as dynamite and high explosive detonators, whether in a magazine on a truck (not the kind you read in the dentist's office), at a fixed storage site, or temporarily stored in a 'day box' on a blasting job site (only for the day), now require a permit from the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

People such as licensed blasters use explosives in their work. They may have their own storage place for explosives or they may purchase explosives from a company that delivers them to the job site and picks up the unused explosives everyday. The trucks that transport explosives to job sites must meet federal Department of Transportation requirements for safety. Magazines used to hold the explosives in transport must be permitted and

meet the requirements of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations. Blasters and other users of explosives are required to keep logs and track the use and keeping of explosives.

A \$100,000 federal grant from the Department of Justice was secured to help the Department of Fire Services properly implement this new regulation and permitting process. Retired Concord Fire Chief Joe Lenox and Fitchburg Fire Captain Ralph Alario, joined the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal as part-time employees in February 2003. Working under the supervision of Wayne Delaney, Code Compliance Supervisor, these two travel all around the state from Gloucester to New Ashford conducting inspections of sites where explosives are stored. Working closely with local fire officials, they inventory every single box of explosives they inspect, and make sure that the logs and the actual inventory match. So far they have inspected 50 fixed magazine sites including 136 magazines, 240 trucks, and 122 day boxes.

The sort of things that these inspectors look for are: proper signage at the entrances of the facility; security against trespassers, good housekeeping inside and outside of the magazines; testing magazine intrusion alarms; proper magazine security; identifica-

tion markers on the outside of magazines; posting of the magazine's maximum capacity and verification that the product stored inside does not exceed that; making sure that high explosives and high explosive detonators are not stored inside the same box; making sure all paperwork such as licenses, permits, emergency plans and material data sheets are present and properly executed; ensuring proper distances between the stored explosives and occupied houses, buildings, railroads and travel ways; and the proper barricades are in place. In addition, they take GPS (global positioning satellite) readings of the site with location of the magazines

The inspectors say the most common reason that the trucks fail their inspections is that they do not pass the safety check. Most trucks fail because the tread in the tires does not meet the minimum depth set by the federal Department of Transportation, not because the explosive storage magazine does not pass the inspection.

These inspections as part of the permitting process have forced companies to keep better track of their inventory and to keep more accurate blasting logs. This increased accountability reduces the opportunity for theft or for leaving explosives at a job site, and has resulted in increased compliance with storage requirements. ♦

Blasting Complaint Forms

When sending in blasting complaints forms to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, please remember to enclose all pertinent records such as seismograph readings and the blaster's log for all dates in question. This will help the Technical Unit staff assist you and process the complaint more quickly and efficiently. ♦

The DFS Quarterly is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to: Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us by the

10th of the month prior to publication.

The DFS Quarterly is published by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a service to the fire service community. It can be found on-line at www.mass.gov/dfs/pubs/dfsq.htm.

Thank you to Judy O'Brien for keen-eyed proofreading and elegant rewording.

Decorations in Schools

Continued from page 1

livable regulation. Coan said, “It is the board’s job to keep us from asking in the wake of a fire tragedy ‘how could this have been prevented?’ and I believe they have struck the right balance here.”

The most significant change is permitting some paper materials to be displayed in corridors and assembly areas in a prescribed manner designed to limit the spread of fire which is one of the major concerns of the fire service. The other significant change is the amount of paper materials that can be displayed in sprinklered buildings. It increases from 30% to 50% in classrooms and from 0% to 50% in corridors and assembly areas such as gyms and cafeterias. The board passed strict separation and density requirements. No paper materials can be within 5 ft. of an egress door. Groupings of paper displays cannot be longer than 12 ft. nor wider than 6 ft. For example, two groups of paper six feet long must be separated by open space of six feet in unsprinklered buildings. In sprinklered facilities, the open space must be equal to one-half the length of the largest adjacent grouping. There were no modifications to amounts

allowed in exits and enclosed stairwells leading to exits.

The board passed an emergency amendment that will take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State’s Office.

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and the Office of the State Fire Marshal will be offering training for fire prevention and school officials. ♦

Summary of Regulations on Paper Decorations in Schools

Room	Old Regulation	Spring Regulation	Today’s Regulation
Classroom	0%	20% unsprinklered building	20% unsprinklered building
		30% sprinklered building	50% sprinklered building
Corridors & Assembly Areas	0%	0%	10% unsprinklered building with density and separation requirements
			50% sprinklered building with density and separation requirements
Exits & Enclosed Stairs	0%	0%	0%

Only 1/3 of Inspected Fireworks Displays Met Regulations

This is the first issue of the *DFS Quarterly* published since the Fourth of July holiday. Although summer may be a distant memory now, it is still worth looking at some of the safety issues encountered by compliance officers at supervised displays of fireworks this past Fourth of July. It may be useful to fire prevention officers to learn from these collective experiences when not under the time pressure of making sure the show goes on safely. It is unpopular to have to move a show or have the show scaled-down to a safe level for the site when it is already setup.

Of the 23 fireworks display site

inspections conducted, only eight, or 33%, of the setups were found to be in full compliance at the time of inspection. The most common problem was a failure to properly secure mortars in the racks and lack of correct spacing between mortars racks.

Some of the other problems encountered included:

- Failure to provide proper spacing between mortars buried in drums;
- Failure to properly secure “cakes”, or additional sandbags required;
- Failure to provide minimum secure diameter of site; in one case 6" shells required 420' minimum

distance to the audience, yet there were camping trailers, tents and 100 lb. LP cylinders within 200' of the display;

- Site perimeter needed to be moved back;
- Display perimeter not secured and maintained;
- Failure to provide proper shipping papers or trip manifest for delivery of fireworks; and
- Inventory of product did not match planned display (more devices and improper sized shells among the inventory), additional mortar racks required. ♦

U. S. Fire Administrator Develops National Residential Sprinkler Strategy to Save Lives

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and national fire protection professionals, who met recently to develop a national residential sprinkler strategy, have agreed to advocate localized fire suppression in high-risk areas of the home- such as the kitchen - and develop an aggressive plan for advocating residential sprinklers in buildings supported by the federal government.

These strategies were developed during a meeting held at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Md. The meeting was intended to bring professionals together with a goal of developing and implementing policies that identify and remove barriers to the acceptance and use of residential sprinkler systems.

"We know how important residential sprinkler systems are," said R. David Paulison, USFA Administrator.

"Every year, more than 3,000 people lose their lives in home fires, and most of those deaths are among the elderly, the disabled, the low income and the very young. Sprinkler

systems are one way to reduce that number and to save the lives of community residents served by the nation's fire service."

The U.S. Fire Administration advocates the installation and use of automatic fire sprinklers to save lives, reduce injuries and protect property and believes that, based on a history of proven success, should be used in all residential occupancies.

The specific proposed national strategies are:

Develop an aggressive strategy for advocating residential sprinklers in occupancies influenced or supported by the federal government,

Advocate localized fire suppression in high-risk areas (e.g., kitchens) for retrofit applications,

Provide advocacy and informational support among stakeholders including state and local decision makers, and

Ensure that the USFA continues to support research and development in residential fire sprinkler technology. ♦

New Manual on Safe Operations of Fire Tankers Now Available from USFA

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced on May 20, 2003 the availability of a new document, *Safe Operation of Fire Tankers*. This new manual provides comprehensive information regarding the safety practices and principles of fire tanker vehicles for local-level fire departments. *Safe Operation of Fire Tankers* provides information related to human performance (driver training, operations, etc), technology (vehicle design), to enhance the safety of fire tanker operations. The manual also examines past incidents of crashes involving fire tankers that have killed firefighters with a focus on how these fatalities could have been prevented. Fire departments will find it a valuable resource providing information related to the current and applicable Federal standards and regulations as well as national-level consensus standards and guidelines.

"Vehicle crashes are the second leading cause of all firefighter on duty fatalities," according to U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "The USFA is dedicated to providing this information to the fire service in support of our desired goal to eliminate firefighter deaths and injuries from fire tanker vehicle crashes."

As part of this project effort, a panel of technical experts in the area of fire service emergency vehicle operations, emergency vehicle maintenance, fire tanker design, and tanker water shuttle operations provided detailed recommendations on how to enhance the safety of fire tanker operations that were incorporated into the manual.

Download *Safe Operations of Fire Tankers* or limited quantities of this publication may be ordered from the USFA Publications Office free of charge. Visit the USFA website www.usfa.fema.gov. ♦

No Regs on Re-Upholstered Furniture

Since the Rhode Island nightclub fire, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has received numerous questions regarding reupholstered furniture. Based on a discussion at the May 1, 2003 meeting of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, the following information is provided:

According to 527 CMR 29.04, the Board has reserved requirements for reupholstered furniture. This means there are no statewide regulations for reupholstered furniture, and that reupholstered furniture does not need to meet California Technical Bulletin (TB) 133. ♦

CT Passes Law on Discussing Sprinklers

Effective October 1, 2003, new home construction contractors must discuss with the consumer, the installation of an automatic fire extinguishing system in a new home. This item must be incorporated into the written notice a contractor must provide that lists subjects the consumer is advised to discuss with the contractor. ♦

Licensing Exams

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, starting at 9 a.m. Arrangements may be made to take the scheduled exams on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton.

Cannon/Mortar/ Fireworks/Special Effects

9:00 a.m. in Room 109

March 2, 2004

June 7, 2004

Sept. 8, 2004

Dec. 8, 2004

Fire Extinguishers

9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium

Jan. 20, 2004

April 21, 2004

July 21, 2004

Oct. 20, 2004

Blasting

9:00 a.m. in Room 109

Jan. 13, 2004

April 13, 2004

July 13, 2004

Oct. 13, 2004

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by contacting Joanne Melanson, at (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. ♦



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